

BIS

And at her next *birth*, much like thee,
Through pangs fled to felicity.
The seamen call a due or proper distance between ships lying
at an anchor, or under sail, a *birth*. Also the proper place a-
board for a mess to put their chests, &c. is called the *birth* of
that mess. Also a convenient place to moor a ship in, is called
a *birth*.
BIRTHDAY. *n. f.* [from *birth* and *day*.]
1. The day on which any one is born.
Orient light,
Exhaling first from darkness, they beheld
*Birth*day of heaven and earth. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. vii.
2. The day of the year in which any one was born, annually ob-
served.
This is my *birthday*; as this very day
Was Cæsar's born. *Shakespeare's Julius Cæsar*.
They tell me, 'tis my *birthday*, and I'll keep it
With double pomp of sadness:
'Tis what the day deserves, which gave me breath. *Dryden*.
Your country dames,
Whose cloaths returning *birthday* claims.
BIRTHDOM. *n. f.* [This is erroneously, I think, printed in
Shakespeare's birthdom. It is derived from *birth* and *dom*. See
Dom; as *kingdom*, *dukedom*.] Privilege of birth.
Hold fast the mortal sword, and, like good men,
Beside our downfall *birthdom*. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.
BIRTHRIGHT. *n. f.* [from *birth* and *right*.]
1. The night in which any one is born.
Th' angelick song in Bethlehem field,
On thy *birthright*, that sung the Saviour born. *Par. Regain*.
2. The night annually kept in memory of any one's birth.
A youth more glit'ring than a *birthright* beau. *Pope*.
BIRTHPLACE. *n. f.* [from *birth* and *place*.] Place where any
one is born.
My *birthplace* have I and my lovers left;
This enemy's town I'll enter. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.
A degree of stupidity beyond even what we have been ever
charged with, upon the score of our *birthplace* and climate.
Swift's Address to Parliament.
BIRTHRIGHT. *n. f.* [from *birth* and *right*.] The rights and
privileges to which a man is born; the right of the first born.
Thy blood and virtue
Contend for empire in thee, and thy goodness
Shares with thy *birthright*. *Shakespeare's All's well that ends well*.
And hath been found
By merit, more than *birthright*, Son of God.
Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iii. l. 308:
I lov'd her first, I cannot quit the claim,
But will preserve the *birthright* of my passion. *Orway's Orph*.
While no baseness in this breast I find,
I have not lost the *birthright* of my mind. *Dryden's Aurengz*.
To say, that liberty and property are the *birthright* of the
English nation, but that if a prince invades them by illegal meth-
ods, we must upon no pretence resist, is to confound govern-
ments.
BIRTHSTRANGLER. *adj.* [from *birth* and *strangle*.] Strangled
or suffocated in being born.
Finger of *birthstrangled* babe,
Ditch deliver'd by a drab. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.
BIRTHWORT. *n. f.* [from *birth* and *wort*; I suppose from a qua-
lity of hastening delivery. *Aristolochia*, Lat.] The name of a
plant.
The stalks are flexible; the leaves are placed alternately on
the branches; the flowers consist of one leaf, are of an anom-
alous figure, hollowed like a pipe, and shaped like a tongue,
generally hooked; the flower cup turns to a membranous,
oval shaped fruit, divided into five cells, and full of flat seeds.
The species are, 1. The round rooted *birthwort*. 2. The climb-
ing *birthwort*. 3. Spanish *birthwort*, &c. The first and second
are sometimes used in medicine, and are easily propagated by
parting their roots.
BISCOTTIN. *n. f.* [French.] A confection made of flour, sugar,
marmalade, eggs, &c.
BISCUIT. *n. f.* [from *bis*, twice, Lat. and *cuit*, baked, Fr.]
1. A kind of hard dry bread, made to be carried to sea; it is
baked for long voyages four times.
The *biscuit* also in the ships, especially in the Spanish gal-
lies, was grown hoary, and unwholesome.
Many have been cured by abstinence from drink, eating dry
biscuits, which creates no thirst, and strong frictions four or five
times a day.
2. A composition of fine flour, almonds, and sugar, made by the
confectioners.
To *biscuit*. *v. a.* [from *bis* and *co*, to cut, Lat.] To divide
into two parts.
The rational horizon *biscuteth* the globe into two equal parts.
Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 5.
BISECTION. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A geometrical term, signi-
fying the division of any quantity into two equal parts.
BISHOP. *n. f.* [from *episcopus*, Lat. the Saxons formed *biscop*,

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which was afterwards softened into *bishop*.] One of the head
order of the clergy.
A *bishop* is an overseer, or superintendent, of religious mat-
ters in the christian church.
You shall find him well accompany'd
With reverend fathers, and well learned *bishops*.
Their zealous superstition thinks, or pretends, they cannot
do God a greater service, than to destroy the primitive, aposto-
lical, and anciently universal government of the church by his
bishops.
In case a *bishop* should commit treason and felony, and forfeit
his estate, with his life, the lands of his *bishoprick* remain still
in the church.
On the word *bishop*, in French *evêque*, I would observe, that
there is no natural connexion between the sacred office and the
letters or found; for *evêque*, and *bishop*, signify the same office,
though there is not one letter alike in them. *Watt's Logic*.
BISHOP. *n. f.* A cant word for a mixture of wine, oranges, and
sugar.
Fine oranges,
Well roasted, with sugar and wine in a cup,
They'll make a sweet *bishop*, when gentle folks sup. *Swift*.
To *Bishop*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To confirm; to admit so-
lemnly into the church.
They are prophane, imperfect, oh! too bad,
Except confirm'd and *bishoped* by thee. *Dante*.
BISHOPRICK. *n. f.* [by corruption, Saxon.] The diocese of a bi-
shop; the district over which the jurisdiction of a bishop ex-
tends.
It will be fit, that by the king's supreme power in causes ec-
clesiastical, they be subordinate under some bishop, and *bishop-
rick*, of this realm. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers*.
A virtuous woman should reject marriage, as a good man
does a *bishoprick*; but I would advise neither to persist in refus-
ing.
Those pastors had episcopal ordination, possessed preb-
ends in the church, and were sometimes promoted to *bishop-
ricks* themselves. *Swift on the Sentiments of a Church of E. man*.
BISHOPSWOOD. *f. m.* [from *bishop*, Lat.] The name of a plant.
This is an unbelliciferous weed, with small striated seeds;
the petals of the flowers are unequal, and shaped like a heart.
The seeds of the greater *bishopswood* are used in medicine, and
should be sown in an open situation, early in the spring. *Mill*.
BISK. *n. f.* [by corruption, Fr.] Soup; broth made by boiling several
sorts of flesh.
A prince, who in a forest rides astray,
And, weary, to some cottage finds the way,
Talks of no pyramids, or fowl, or *bisks* of fish,
But hungry sups his cream serv'd up in earthen dish.
King's Art of Cookery.
BISKET. See **BISCUIT**.
BISMUTH. *n. f.* The same as *marcasite*; it properly signifies
a hard, white, brittle, mineral substance, of a metalline na-
ture, found at Mithra; though supposed to be only a recre-
mentitious matter thrown off in the formation of tin, as unfit
to enter its composition. There are some, however, who
esteem it a metal *vis generis*; though it usually contains some
silver. There is an artificial *bismuth* made, for the shops, of
tin.
BISSEXTILE. *n. f.* [from *bis*, and *sextilis*, Lat.] Leap year;
the year in which the day, arising from six odd hours in each
year, is intercalated.
The year of the sun consisteth of three hundred and sixty
five days and six hours, wanting eleven minutes; which six
hours omitted, will, in time, deprave the compute; and this
was the occasion of *bissextile*, or leap year.
Towards the latter end of February is the *bissextile* or inter-
calary day; called *bissextile*, because the sixth of the calends of
March is twice repeated.
BISSON. *adj.* [derived by *Stinner* from *bis* and *son*.] Blind.
But who, oh! who hath seen the mobled queen,
Run barefoot up and down, threat'ning the flames
With *bisson* rheum. *Shakespeare's Hamlet*.
What harm can your *bisson* conspectivities glean out of this
character. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.
BISTRE. *n. f.* [French.] A colour made of chimney foot boil-
ed, and then diluted with water; used by painters in washing
their designs.
BISTORT. *n. f.* [*bistorta*, Lat.] The name of a plant called also
snakeweed; which see.
BISTOURY. *n. f.* [*bistouri*, Fr.] A surgeon's instrument used in
making incisions, of which there are three sorts; the blade of
the first turns like that of a lancet; but the straight *bistoury* has
the blade fixed in the handle; the crooked *bistoury* is shaped
like a half moon, having the edge on the inside. *Chambers*.
BISULCIOUS. *adj.* [*bisulcus*, Lat.] Clovenfooted.
For the swine, although multiparous, yet being *bisulcus*, and
only clovenfooted, are farrowed with open eyes, as other *bisul-*
cus animals. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. iii. c. 26.
BIT. *n. f.* [by corruption, Saxon.] Signifies the whole machine of all the
iron

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iron appurtenances of a bridle, as the bit-mouth, the branches,
the curb, the devil holes, the tranchefil, and the cross chains;
but sometimes it is used to signify only the bit-mouth in parti-
cular.
They light from their horses, pulling off their *bites*, that they
might (something refresh their mouths upon the grass. *Sidney*.
We have strict statutes, and most biting laws,
The needful *bites* and curbs of headstrong steeds.
He hath the *bit* fast between his teeth, and away he runs.
Unus'd to the restraint
Of curbs and *bites*, and fleetier than the winds. *Addis. Cato*.
BIT. *n. f.* [from *bite*.]
1. As much meat as is put into the mouth at once.
How many prodigal *bites* have slaves and peasants
This night englutted? *Shakespeare's Timon of Athens*.
Follow your function, go and batten on cold *bites*. *Shakespeare*.
The mice found it troublesome to be still climbing the oak
for every *bite* they put in their bellies. *L'Estrange*.
By this the boiling kettle had prepar'd,
And to the table sent the smoking lard,
A fav'ry *bit*, that serv'd to relish wine. *Dryden's Fables*.
John was the darling; he had all the good *bites*, was cram-
med with good pullet, chicken, and capon. *Arbutnot's J. Bull*.
2. A small piece of any thing.
Then clap four slices of pilaster on't,
That, lac'd with *bites* of rustick, makes a front. *Pope*.
He bought at thousands, what with better wit
You purchase as you want, and *bite* by *bite*. *Pope's Epistles*.
His majesty has power to grant a patent for stamping round
bites of copper, to every subject he hath. *Swift*.
3. A Spanish West Indian silver coin, valued at sevenpence half-
penny.
4. *A bit* the better or worse. In the smallest degree.
There are few that know all the tricks of these lawyers;
for aught I can see, your case is not a *bit* clearer than it was
seven years ago. *Arbutnot's History of J. Bull*.
To *BIT*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To put the bridle upon a
horse.
BITCH. *n. f.* [bitch, Saxon.]
1. The female of the canine kind; as the wolf, the dog, the fox,
the otter.
And at his feet a *bitch* wolf fuck'd dry
To two young babes. *Spenser's Vision of Belley*.
I have been credibly informed, that a *bitch* will nurse, play
with, and be fond of young foxes, as much as, and in place of
her puppies. *Locke*.
2. A name of reproach for a woman.
John had not run a meddling fo long, had it not been for an
extravagant *bitch* of a wife. *Arbutnot's History of J. Bull*.
To *BITE*. *v. a.* pret. I *bite*; part. pass. I have *bitten*, or *bitten*. [bi-
zen, Saxon.]
1. To crush, or pierce with the teeth.
My very enemy's dog,
Though he had *bite* me, should have stood that night
Against my fire. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.
Such smiling rogues as these,
Like rats, oft *bite* the holy cords in twain,
Too intricate 't' unloose. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.
These are the youths that thunder at a playhouse, and fight
for *bitten* apples. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII*.
He falls; his arms upon his body found,
And with his bloody teeth he *bites* the ground. *Dryden*.
There was lately a young gentleman *bite* to the bone, who has
now indeed recovered. *Taylor, N° 62*.
Their foul mouths have not opened their lips without a fal-
sity; though they have showed their teeth as if they would *bite*
off my nose. *Arbutnot and Pope's Martinus Scriblerus*.
2. To give pain by cold.
Here feel we the icy phang,
And churlish chiding of the winter's wind;
Which when it *bites* and blows upon my body,
Ev'n till I shrink with cold, I smile. *Shakespeare's As you like it*.
Full fifty years harnes'd in rugged steel,
I have endur'd the biting winter's blast,
And the fever heats of parching summer. *Rowe's Ambitious Stepmother*.
3. To hurt or pain with reproach.
Each poet with a different talent writes;
One praises, one instructs, another *bites*. *Roscommon*.
4. To cut; to wound.
I've seen the day, with my good biting faulchion,
I would have made them skip. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.
5. To make the mouth smart with an acrid taste.
It may be the first water will have more of the scent, as
more fragrant; and the second more of the taste, as more bit-
ter, or *biting*. *Bacon's Natural History*, N° 21.
6. To cheat; to trick; to defraud; a low phrase.
Alleep and naked as an Indian lay,
An honest factor stole a gem away:
He plied it to the knight; the knight had wit,
So kept the diamond, and the rogue was *bite*. *Pope*.

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If you had allowed half the fine gentlemen to have conversed
with you, they would have been strangely *bite*, while they
thought only to fall in love with a fair lady. *Pope's Letters*.
BITE. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. The seizure of any thing by the teeth.
Does he think he can endure the everlasting burnings, or
arm himself against the *bites* of the never dying worm? *Saath*.
Nor dogdays parching heat, that splits the rocks,
Are half so harmful as the greedy flocks;
Their venom'd *bites*, and fears indented on the flocks. *Dryden's Virgil's Georgicks*, b. ii. l. 522.
2. The act of a fish that takes the bait.
I have known a very good fisher angle diligently four or six
hours for a river carp, and not have a *bite*. *Walton's Angler*.
3. A cheat; a trick; a fraud; in low and vulgar language.
Let a man be ne'er so wise,
He may be caught with sober lies;
For take it in its proper light,
'Tis just what coxcombs call a *bite*. *Swift*.
4. A sharper; one who commits frauds.
BITER. *n. f.* [from *bite*.]
1. He that bites.
Great barkers are no *biter*. *Camden's Remains*.
2. A fish apt to take the bait.
He is so bold, that he will invade one of his own kind, and
you may therefore easily believe him to be a bold *biter*. *Walton*.
3. A tricker; a deceiver.
A *biter* is one who tells you a thing, you have no reason to
disbelieve in itself, and perhaps has given you, before he bit
you, no reason to disbelieve it for his saying it; and, if you
give him credit, laughs in your face, and triumphs that he has
deceived you. He is one who thinks you a fool, because you
do not think him a knave. *Speetator*, N° 504.
BITTLE. *n. f.* A frame of timber in the steerage of a ship,
where the compass is placed. *Dick*.
BITTEN. *partic. pass.* [from *bite*; which see.]
BITTER. *adj.* [biter, Saxon.]
1. Having a hot, acrid, biting taste, like wormwood.
Bitter things are apt rather to kill than engender putrefac-
tion. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.* N° 606.
Though a man in a fever should, from sugary have a *bitter*
taste, which, at another time, produces a sweet one; yet the
idea of *bitter* in that man's mind, would be as clear and dis-
tinct from the idea of sweet, as if he had tasted only gall. *Locke*.
2. Sharp; cruel; severe.
Friends now fast sworn,
Unseparable, shall within this hour,
On a dissolution of a dole, break out
To *bitterest* enmity. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.
Husbands, love your wives, and be not *bitter* against them. *Coloff*, iii. 19.
The word of God, instead of a *bitter*, teaches us a charitable
zeal. *Sprat*.
3. Calamitous; miserable.
Noble friends and fellows, whom to leave
Is only *bitter* to him, only dying;
Go with me, like good angels, to my end. *Shakespeare's H. VIII*.
A dire induction am I witness to;
And will to France, hoping, the consequence
Will prove as *bitter*, black, and tragical. *Shakespeare's Rich. III*.
Tell him, that if I bear my *bitter* fate,
'Tis to behold his vengeance for my son. *Dryden's Æneis*.
4. Painful; inclement.
And thence the *bitter* consequence: for know,
The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command
Transgress, inevitably thou shalt die. *Paradise Lost*, b. viii.
The fowl the borders fly,
And thence the *bitter* blast, and wheel about the sky. *Dryden*.
5. Sharp; reproachful; satirical.
Go with me,
And, in the breath of *bitter* words, let's smother
My damned son. *Shakespeare's Richard III*.
6. Mournful; afflicted.
Wherefore is light given unto him that is in misery, and life
unto the *bitter* in soul? *Job*, iii. 20.
7. In any manner, unpleasing or hurtful.
Bitter is an equivocal word; there is *bitter* wormwood,
there are *bitter* words, there are *bitter* enemies, and a *bitter* cold
morning. *Watt's Logic*.
BITTERGOURD. *n. f.* [*ecolynthia*, Lat.] The name of a plant.
It is, in all respects, like the gourd, excepting the leaves of
the plant being deeply jagged, and the fruit being excessively
bitter, and not eatable. There are several varieties of this
plant, which are very common in divers parts of the East and
West Indies. *Miller*.
BITTERLY. *adv.* [from *bitter*.]
1. With a bitter taste.
2. In a bitter manner; sorrowfully; calamitously.
I so lively acted with my tears,
That my poor misfrets, moved therewithal,
Wept *bitterly*. *Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Verona*.
Bitterly